

PRISON BOARD MINUTES

August 12, 2026

Board Members Present:

Edward Cernic, Jr., Controller
Thomas C. Chernisky, Commissioner
Linda Rovder Fleming, President Judge
Joseph Green, First Assistant to the District Attorney
Scott W. Hunt, President Commissioner
Don Robertson, Sheriff

Others Present:

Kurt Wolford, Warden
Megan Bursky, Chief Deputy Warden
Carmelo Furnari, Chief Deputy Warden

Pledge of Allegiance.

Sheriff Robertson called the Meeting to order, at 10:30 a.m., at the Cambria County Prison.

Public Comment:

John DeBartola spoke about the cost of Prison bills.

Etta Albright spoke regarding the Re-entry Program.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hunt to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on July 8, 2026.

Motion was seconded by Controller Cernic and passed. President Judge Fleming abstained.

Executive Sessions:

Executive Sessions of the Prison Board were held on July 31, 2026, and August 10, 2026.

Presentation and Approval of Invoices:

Controller Cernic presented the following bills and Invoice Status Report for approval:

Prison bills paid after the Meeting held July 8, 2026:

Retirement Fund	\$42,581.57
Retirement Fund	\$40,870.52
Retirement Fund	\$38,924.49
UPMC Health Plan and Dental	\$51,813.31
UPMC Health Plan and Dental	\$50,030.65
UPMC Health Plan and Dental	\$48,867.68
Symetra Life Insurance	\$669.01
Symetra Life Insurance	\$636.26
Ebensburg Borough	\$42,019.05
United Energy	\$1,000.84
Wells Fargo	\$445.30
FNB Visa	\$48.61
DeLage Landen	\$1,308.35
Ricoh	\$209.00
Phoenix Workplace Health	\$271.00
Penelec	\$32,362.94
Peoples	\$1,142.34
Phoenix Workplace Health	\$629.00

Total: **\$353,829.92**

Invoice Status Report:

August 6, 2026, 99 Invoices Totaling	\$208,347.55
Canteen Fund Bills Paid after July, 2026, Meeting	\$4,362.16
Canteen Fund Bills to be Paid	\$41,190.17

Motion was made by Controller Cernic to approve the bills and the Invoice Status Report.

Motion was seconded by President Judge Fleming and passed unanimously.

Warden's Report:

Personnel:

New Hires:

1. Darylann Eger, Full-Time Warden Assistant, effective July 6, 2026.

Removals/Resignations:

1. Donald Ochenrider, Major of Security, effective July 2, 2026.

Transfers:

1. Kristen Perino, Captain to Major of Security and Investigations, effective July 12, 2026.
2. Kolbe Brothers, Full-Time Correctional Officer I to Per-Diem Correctional Officer, effective July 19, 2026.
3. Breanna Altumus, Per-Diem Correctional Officer to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective July 19, 2026.
4. Brendon Demchak, Per-Diem Correctional Officer to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective July 19, 2026.
5. John Grosholz, Per-Diem Correctional Officer to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective July 19, 2026.
6. Roger Brothers, Per-Diem Correctional Officer to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective July 19, 2026.
7. Aiden Jackson, Per-Diem Correctional Officer to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective July 19, 2026.
8. Ryan Cornelius, Per-Diem Correctional Officer to Full-Time Correctional Officer I, effective July 19, 2026.

Warden Wolford Reported:

Staff:

1. Prison Administration conducted security audits of inmate work crew operations throughout the County in order to evaluate compliance with established procedures and to ensure operations are being conducted safely and effectively.
2. The new Cadet Swearing-In Ceremony was held on July 17, 2026, at the Cambria County Courthouse. Prison Administration extended its appreciation to Sheriff Robertson and Court Administrator Arrington for their assistance and coordination in making the ceremony possible.
3. Prison Administration conducted a supervisory staff meeting to strengthen communication, reinforce operational expectations, and ensure consistency and efficiency throughout the Facility.

4. Prison staff participated in the Red Sand Project at the Facility to help raise awareness of human trafficking and the impact it has on victims and communities. The initiative provided an opportunity for staff to support broader community awareness efforts and reinforce the importance of recognizing and addressing human trafficking.
5. Chief Deputy Warden Furnari completed specialized training in support of the Prison's K9 Program, furthering the development and operational readiness of the Program within the Facility.
6. Prison Administration completed interviews for the open Lieutenant position. The selection process included a strong and highly competitive pool of applicants, reflecting the continued interest of staff in professional growth and leadership opportunities within the Facility.
7. The Warden thanked Detective Hinterliter and Titan's Watch for their assistance in establishing the first-ever K9 Program at the Facility. Their support, coordination, and commitment were instrumental in bringing the Program to fruition. With the required training now completed, the K9 Program is prepared to officially begin operations at the Facility.
8. Homefront, the Prison's newly established initiative designed to provide a supportive network for correctional officers and their families, held its first meeting in July. The inaugural meeting was well received and provided an opportunity for families to connect, build relationships, and begin developing a stronger support system within the correctional community.

Training:

1. Director Smick is preparing for the next Correctional Officer Academy, tentatively scheduled for September 2026, with the goal of filling the remaining per-diem vacancies on the staffing roster.

Audits:

1. On July 10, 2026, the United States Marshals Service conducted an inspection of the Facility. Prison Administration is awaiting the final written report. At the conclusion of the inspection, no major areas of concern were communicated to Prison Administration.
2. Prison staff continued preparations for the Facility's State inspection scheduled for August, 2026, including reviewing operational practices, documentation, and applicable compliance requirements to ensure the Facility is prepared for the inspection process.

Major Maintenance/Facility Updates:

1. Prison Administration met with an outside contractor to discuss potential maintenance needs related to heating systems throughout the Facility in an effort to identify the most efficient and cost-effective options.
2. Development of the Prison's Equipment Inventory, Lobby Management, and Shift Commander Logbook applications has been completed. Administration is currently coordinating with County Information Technology staff to complete final security and system reviews prior to full implementation.
3. Watkins Security was retained on an emergency basis to address a Facility security issue. Specific operational details are not included in this public report, because disclosure could compromise the safety and security of the Facility. The County intends to issue a new Request for Proposals, (RFP), for a more comprehensive, long-term service agreement.

Treatment and Behavioral Health:

- 1. Chief Deputy Warden Bursky met with Rushelle Dillon to discuss improving access to SNAP benefits as part of the Facility’s reentry efforts. Prison Administration is working to establish a coordinated process that will assist eligible individuals with completing SNAP applications prior to release, helping to reduce barriers to food assistance as they transition back into the community.
- 2. Chief Deputy Warden Bursky conducted a meeting with the Facility’s counseling staff to review operations within the Inmate Services Department, strengthen communication and coordination, and ensure services are being delivered consistently and efficiently.
- 3. Prison Administration met with representatives from PrimeCare Medical for the Facility’s quarterly review meeting to discuss current medical operations, service delivery, and procedures and priorities moving forward.

Community Partnerships and Criminal Justice Collaboration:

- 1. Chief Deputy Warden Bursky attended the Cambria County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) meeting on July 15, 2026, continuing the Prison’s participation in county-wide criminal justice coordination and collaboration.
- 2. Prison Administration began discussions regarding the development of a collaborative quarterly meeting to be hosted at the Prison with representatives from local law enforcement agencies, the Courts, and the correctional system. The goal of the initiative is to strengthen interagency communication, improve coordination, and identify opportunities to enhance criminal justice operations throughout Cambria County.

Miscellaneous:

- 1. Coordinator McCoy has begun preparations for the Prison’s second annual Services Fair, which is planned for this fall. The event is designed to connect inmates with community-based resources, programs, and service providers that may assist with employment, housing, treatment, benefits, and other reentry needs following release.

Statistical Report:

<u>July, 2026</u>	
Average Daily Population for July, 2026	423
Housing Revenue for July, 2026	\$347,715.00
Year to Date Housing Revenue	\$2,229,624.00

Food Service Report:

Report is attached.

Medical Report:

Report is attached.

Training:

Report is attached.

Misconduct Report:

There was no information to report.

Miscellaneous:

There was no miscellaneous information reported.

Motion was made by President Judge Fleming to approve the Warden's Report.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Controller Cernic to adjourn the Meeting.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

An Executive Session was called to order at 10:55 a.m., after the Meeting was adjourned.

Tara N. Keilman, Deputy Chief Clerk